

Message Text

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TAGS: SENV, EINV, NL

SUBJ: THIRD ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON "THE EFFECTS OF
POLLUTION ABATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE"

REF: STATE A-9464

1. WE HAVE PROVIDED COPY OF ENCLOSURE TO REFAIR TO MIN HEALTH CONTACT FOR REVIEW. WE UNDERSTAND DRAFT IS STILL BEING CIRCULATED WITHIN MINISTRY AMONG OFFICERS MOST DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH VARIOUS AREAS COVERED IN DRAFT AND THAT WE MAY EXPECT COORDINATED REPLY WEEK OF FEB 3. ACCORDINGLY, WE ANTICIPATE WE WILL BE ABLE TO TRANSMIT FINAL COMMENT AND ADDITIONAL INFO NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED BELOW ON SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED REFAIR BY NOT LATER THAN FEB 10.

2. FOLLOWING ARE REPLIES TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS (NUMBERING OF REPLIES CORRESPONDING TO QUESTION NUMBERS USED REFAIR).
(1) SELECTIVE INVESTMENT REGULATION: GON HAS POSTPONED INTRODUCTION OF THE REGULATION UNTIL AT LEAST MAY 1, 1975 (BECAUSE OF ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS). IN THE MEANTIME, THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED IN LATE 1974 TO AMEND THE REGULATION BY REQUIRING THAT PERMITS AND PAYMENT OF THE APPROPRIATE LEVIES APPLY ONLY RPT ONLY WITHIN THE RHINE ESTUARY REGION (THE "RIJNMOND"). FOR OTHER REGIONS COVERED BY THE LAW BUT OUTSIDE THE RIJNMOND, THERE WILL BE ONLY AN OBLIGATION TO NOTIFY THE GOVERNMENT OF NEW INVESTMENTS (I.E., THE LICENSE/LEVY REQUIREMENT WILL NOT APPLY.) IN ADDITION NEW BUILDINGS IN THE

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PUBLIC SERVICES SECTOR (E.G. CHURCH SOCIETIES, HOSPITALS,

SCHOOLS, ETC.) ARE EXEMPT FROM THE REGULATION. (SEE HAGUE A-103 OF 5/21/74, WHICH IS MODIFIED BY PRECEDING INFO).

(2) ACCORDING TO MIN HEALTH SOURCE, GON EXPECTS SUBMIT DRAFT LAW ON NOISE POLLUTION TO PARLIAMENT IN MAY THIS YEAR AND ON GROUND WATER IN JUNE (SEE HAGUE 499 OF 1/30/75 RE NOISE POLLUTION).

(3) FEE FOR DISCHARGING POLLUTION WASTE IS CHARGED ON ANNUAL BASIS AND VARIES ACCORDING TO TYPE OF POLLUTANT AND LOCATION. (FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED IN SUBSEQUENT REPORT).

(4) ACCORDING TO MIN HEALTH, AIR POLLUTION, MONITORING NETWORK HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND IS IN OPERATION. MEASUREMENT MADE BY MONITORING SITES ARE TRANSMITTED TO CENTRAL INSTALLATION IN BILTHOVEN. DATA ARE PROVIDED TO PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENFORCING ANY BREACHES IN AIR POLLUTION ACT OF 1970.(5) CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL MONITORING NETWORK WAS FINANCED FROM GOVERNMENT BUDGET WITHOUT REGARD TO REVENUE FROM TAX ON FUELS REFERRED TO IN SECTION III B2, PAGE 5, (I.E.

BUILDING OF NETWORK WAS NOT CONTINGENT ON REVENUES FROM THIS TAX). WE UNDERSTAND THAT TAX IN QUESTION IS LEVIED ON FUELS ACCORDING TO CONTENT OF VARIOUS POLLUTANTS AND THAT REVENUES DERIVED THEREFROM ARE GENERALLY INTENDED FOR POLLUTION ABATEMENT BUT NOT NECESSARILY FOR OPERATION OF MONITORING NETWORK ITSELF.

(6) WE WILL REPLY TO THIS QUESTION IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE.

(7) IN PRINCIPLE, NETHERLANDS ESPOUSES STRICT ADHERENCE TO POLLUTER PAYS PRINCIPLE. HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND GON MAY IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES PROVIDE SUBSIDY TO FIRMS WHICH HAVE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIRED STANDARDS AND WE ARE ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY GUIDELINES IN THIS REGARD.

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